

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph after the ending paragraph on Page 1 and before the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a lottery ticket with a multilayer coating composition on its outer surface.

Fig. 2 is a cross-section along Line 1-1 of the lottery ticket of Fig. 1.

Please replace the last paragraph on Page 2 and starting paragraph on Page 3 with the following paragraph:

Described herein are methods for applying multiple layers of a coating composition on the outer surface of an article. An example of such an article is the lottery ticket 10 illustrated in Fig. 1. As shown from the cross-section along Line 1-1 of the lottery ticket 10, in one aspect, the method involves

(a) applying a first composition comprising a first oligomer comprising an energy-curable oligomer to the outer surface 12 of the article (lottery ticket 10) to produce a first layer 14, wherein after the application step (a), a first layer 14 comprising the first oligomer is on the outer surface 12 of the article, and wherein the first layer 14 has an outer surface 16;

(b) drying the article produced after step (a);

(c) applying a second composition comprising a second oligomer comprising an energy-curable oligomer to the outer surface 16 of the first layer 14 to produce a second layer 18, wherein after the application step (b), the second layer 18 is on the outer surface 16 of the first layer 14, and wherein the second layer 18 has an outer surface 20;

(d) drying the article produced after step (c);

(e) applying a third composition comprising a third oligomer comprising an energy-curable oligomer to the outer surface 20 of the second layer 18 to produce a third layer 22, wherein after the application step (d), the third layer 22 is on the outer surface 20 of the second layer 18; and

(f) curing the first oligomer, the second oligomer, and the third oligomer.

Please replace the last paragraph on Page 6 and starting paragraph on Page 7 with the following paragraph:

The methods described herein also contemplate applying two or more different first compositions or second compositions to the outer surface 12 of the article. For example, a first composition can be applied to the outer surface 12 of the article. Once this composition is applied to the article, this composition will produce a first layer 14 of first oligomer having an outer surface 16. A second first composition can then be applied to the outer surface 16 of the first composition to produce a second first layer (similar to second layer 18). Depending upon the application, several layers of first and second oligomer can be applied to the article.

Please replace the second paragraph on Page 7 with the following paragraph:

The methods described herein involve performing a drying step (1) after the first composition is applied to the article and (2) after the second composition is applied to the outer surface 12 of the first layer 14. The drying steps (b) and (d) generally involve drying the first 14 and second 18 layers so that these layers are dry to the touch. In one aspect, drying steps (b) and (d) are performed by exposing the article with the first layer 14 or second layer 18 to a gas fired or electrically fired dryer coupled with a large flow of air volume. In one aspect, the temperature of the drying steps is from 230°F to 390 °F. The source of the large volume of air flow can be any blower known in the art. In one aspect, the blower can be a separate mechanical device or it can be part of a forced air dryer. Alternatively, the drying step can be performed by an IR dryer with no large volume of air flow.

Please replace the last paragraph on Page 7 and starting paragraph on Page 8 with the following paragraph:

Not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that when drying steps (b) and (d) involve thermal heating in the presence of a large volume of air flow, the first oligomer and second oligomer do not react or cross-link with one another even though some of the first oligomer can diffuse into the second layer and vice versa (i.e., commingle or intermingle). Alternatively, when drying steps (b) and (d) involve exposing the first 14 and second 18 layers to light (e.g., a UV lamp), the first and second oligomers partially react or cross-link (i.e., tie together). When the first 14 and second 18 layers are commingled, intermingled and/or tied together, it is believed that the resultant article will have improved graphic adhesion, improved backside wick protection and improved resistance to image ink alteration or image ink migration by thermal or chemical means, once the layers are cured. Additionally, after drying steps (b) and (d) are performed, the first 14 and second 18 layers on the article are capable of passing through the press before being cured without tracking or picking, which is another advantage of the methods described herein.

Please replace the second paragraph on Page 8 with the following paragraph:

After drying step (d), the third composition is applied to the outer surface 20 of the second layer 18 to produce a third layer 22. After the formation of the third layer 22, the first 14, second 18, and third 22 layers are cured in order to cross-link the first, second and/or third oligomers. The amount of cross-linking amongst the oligomers will vary depending upon the type of oligomer and the mode of curing. In one aspect, the curing step (f) is performed by using a UV lamp. For example, a "D" bulb can be used to cure the first oligomer present in the first layer, and a "D," "H," or "V" bulb can be used to cure the second oligomer in the second layer. In another aspect, the first 14, second 18 and third 22 layers can be cured by exposing the layers to an electron beam. In this aspect, the first, second and third oligomers cross-link with one another. The amount of cross-linking between the different oligomers will depend upon the type of first, second and third oligomer and the amount of commingling, intermingling or tying together that occurs between the different oligomers in the first 14, second 18 and third layers 22.

Please replace the third paragraph on Page 8 with the following paragraph:

In another aspect, an image ink can be applied to the article. In one aspect, the image ink can be applied to the outer surface of the first 14 and/or second layer 18 after the first 14 and second layer 18 have been dried in steps (b) and (d), respectively. In one aspect, the image ink is applied to the outer surface 20 of the second layer 18 after the second layer 18 has been dried in step (d) to produce an image comprised of alpha numeric indicia. Once the image ink has been applied to the outer surface 16,20 of the first 14 or second layer 18, the resultant image can be dried using the techniques described above and subsequent layers can be applied over the image. In one aspect, the image ink can be applied to the outer surface 16,20 of the first 14 or second layer 18 using any method of ink jet printing including, but not limited to, drop on demand or continuous ink jet. In one aspect, the image can occupy a portion of the first 14 or second layer 18. In this aspect, when a subsequent layer is applied over the image, the subsequent layer can be in contact with the image as well as the outer surface of the first 14 or second layer 18.